

## **Annual Report of Major Outputs and Outcomes, July 2012–June 2013**

Florida Department of Health, Fundamental State-Based Occupational Health and Safety  
Surveillance Program

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### **Partnership Building**

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) held its first Florida Occupational Injury and Illness Coalition meeting in Tallahassee, FL in September 2012. Topics included disparities in the workforce, pregnancy health among farmworkers, young workers, and partnership opportunities. Over 25 partners attended the meeting and many expressed a desire for an annual in-person meeting.

### **Potential Outcomes**

As a result of the Coalition meeting, the program has developed a partnership with the State of Florida Loss Prevention Program (a program that focuses on safety and health issues that affect state employees). The Loss Prevention Program has begun to highlight the efforts of the program in their bimonthly newsletter. Additionally, through one of the Coalition members, the OHSP became involved with the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH). Florida does not have a local COSH. The OHSP was able to offer input on a Workers' Memorial Day project in South Florida. The results and recommendations that were published could potentially impact workplace risk.

### **Capacity Building**

The epidemiologist, principal investigator and data consultant were able to actively participate in the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) annual conference, the CSTE Occupational Health Subcommittee/National Institute for Safety and Health (NIOSH) winter meeting, and the second annual SouthON meeting (Florida data was presented). The epidemiologist also attended the CSTE Occupational Health Subcommittee spring meeting and a two-day disaster epidemiology training, which included information about the Emergency Responders Health Monitoring and Surveillance (EHRMS) program and the Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE) program. Both, the networking opportunities and the information sessions, were beneficial and increased program capacity.

To increase program capacity, students from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) Institute of Public Health program have been invited as interns with the OHSP. A student was mentored for one month last summer and was able to produce a fact sheet that is used during our partnership building activities. Another student interned for the full spring semester. This student produced an additional fact sheet on occupational health costs in Florida as well as an article on Workers' Memorial Day.

Carry forward funds were used to hire a temporary employee to assist with entering pesticide poisoning data. Many of Florida's pesticide poisoning cases are occupationally related. Additionally, our Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program recently

hired a new coordinator. The OHSP epidemiologist has been able to assist the new coordinator by providing training on industry and occupation coding and on reporting to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

### **Contract Projects**

The OHSP contracted with the University of North Florida to expand on analyses conducted during year two on costs associated with work-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in Florida from 2006–2010. The project mapped costs related to occupational injuries and illness by county using InstantAtlas software. The maps will be accessible online for use by researchers and the public.

A project with the University of Miami produced summary reports that utilize National Health Interview Survey data to highlight the demographic characteristics common to young workers in the construction and warehousing industries.

A project with Florida International University was undertaken as a result of reports produced by the OHSP in recent years, which indicated that Hispanic workers in Florida bear a disproportionate amount of work-related injuries compared to non-Hispanic whites, particularly in the construction and warehousing industries. The project included interviews, focus groups, and surveys with Hispanic and non-Hispanic white construction and warehousing workers. The information gathered in this project will be used to target intervention efforts in the future.

### **Surveillance**

Four questions were added to the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for survey year 2013, including industry, occupation, job related injury and what payer was involved (workers' compensation or not). Previously collected BRFSS data was assessed and it was determined that it would be best to aggregate multiple years before performing further analysis. Additionally, the OHSP was able to utilize Florida's Workers' Compensation data to calculate and submit occupational health indicators #5 (Amputations) and #8 (Carpal Tunnel) for the first time.

### **Presentations, Reports and Other Outputs**

Reports and other outputs can be found on the FDOH website <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>

#### **Presentations**

- Chalmers, J. *Occupational Health Surveillance*. Presented at Florida Occupational Injury and Illness Coalition meeting. Tallahassee, FL. September 2012.
- Chalmers, J. and Watkins, S. *Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance within the Florida Department of Health*. Presented at the Florida chapter of the American Industrial Hygienist Association fall conference. Jacksonville, FL. September 2012
- Watkins, S. *Exploring Fatalities and Disparities in the Occupational Health Indicators - Targeting Hispanic Construction Workers*. Presented at SouthON Meeting. Tampa, FL. December 2012.

- Harduar Morano, L. *Assessing the Relationship of Ambient Temperature and Heat-Related Illness in Florida: Implications for Setting Heat Advisories and Warnings. Pilot Study of Orlando and the Surrounding Area*. Presented at SouthON meeting. Tampa, FL. December 2012.
- Chalmers, J. *Fundamental Occupational Health Surveillance in Florida*. Poster. Presented at Occupational Health Surveillance Partners Meeting. Tampa, FL. December 2012.
- Chalmers, J. *Racial and Ethnic Work-Related Health Disparities in Florida, 2010*. Poster. Presented poster at Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist Annual Conference. Pasadena, CA. June 2013.
- Harduar Morano, L. *Assessment of the Heat-Health Relationship in Florida with Threshold Recommendations for Heat Warning/Advisories*. Presented at Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist Annual Conference. Pasadena, CA. June 2013.

#### Reports

- The Health of Young Workers in the United States: All sectors
- The Health of Young Workers in the United States: Construction Sector
- The Health of Young Workers in the United States: Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities Sector
- A Comparison of Health and Safety Concern of White and Latino Construction Workers
- A Comparison of Health and Safety Concern of White and Latino Warehouse Workers
- Racial and Ethnic Work-related Health Disparities in Florida, 2010
- Assessing the Relationship of Ambient Temperature and Heat-Related Illness in Florida: Implications for Setting Heat Advisories and Warnings. Pilot Study of Orlando and the Surrounding Area.

#### Other Outputs

- Website: Occupational Health Surveillance Program website redesigned.
- Factsheet: Florida Occupational Health and Safety Program. Gives an overview of the OHSP and highlights safety and health findings from the occupational health indicators.
- Factsheet: Costs Associated with Occupational Injury/Illness Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits.
- Mapping: InstantAtlas Map of Costs Associated with Occupational Injury/Illness Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits.
- EpiUpdate: The Florida Work-related Fatality Report and a write up of the rash in a department store investigation that the OSHP consulted on were featured in separate issues of EpiUpdate. EpiUpdate is a monthly newsletter containing news and information about current epidemiologic events in Florida.
- Loss Prevention Newsletter: Contributed an article on Workers' Memorial Day. The Work-related Fatality Report was highlighted in a separate issue. The Loss Prevention Newsletter focuses on safety and health issues that affect state employees.